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Urban District of Woodhall Spa



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1953

*With Compliments
of
The Medical Officer
of Health*

Health Offices,
Horncastle.

Horncastle Rural District.
Horncastle Urban District.
Woodhall Spa Urban District.

WOODHALL SPA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A n n u a l R e p o r t
o f t h e
M e d i c a l O f f i c e r o f H e a l t h
1 9 5 3

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health

S.A. O'HAGAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector

N.R. BOLTON, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.

The Medical Officer of Health serves also Horncastle Urban and Rural Districts and as Assistant County Medical Officer.

The Sanitary Inspector also holds the appointments of Surveyor and Water Engineer.

The Highways; Sewerage and Public Health Committees deal with the majority of Public Health matters although a separate Water Committee and Parks and Playing Fields Committee deals with water supplies and swimming baths.

The Council of the Urban District of Woodhall Spa.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1953.

The report follows the pattern of the last few years, being prepared in accordance with skeleton instructions from the Ministry of Health.

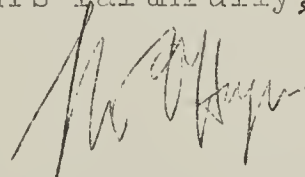
Certain factors are outstanding. Firstly the persistently low birth rate which has only once in the post-war years reached anything like the national level. This is true, even when the age structure of the population is taken into account. In general a low birth rate is of poor economic significance. The death rate remains unchanged by any significant amount, as does the age-distribution of deaths.

There were no outbreaks of serious infectious disease, although measles, whooping cough and scarlet fever made their appearance in due season.

The County Council's scheme for whooping cough immunization came into operation during the year. The figures for vaccination and Diphtheria immunization are exceptionally good - practically every baby is immunized and 5 out of every 6 are vaccinated.

In short, the overall picture of the Spa's health is good.

Yours faithfully,



Medical Officer of Health.



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STATISTICS

AREA OF URBAN DISTRICT:	1874 acres
REGISTRAR GENERAL'S MID-YEAR ESTIMATE OF RESIDENT POPULATION:	2100.
DENSITY OF POPULATION:	1.12 persons per acre
NUMBER OF INHABITED DWELLINGS:	
Houses -	554
Flats -	40
Temporary Dwellings, Caravans, etc. -	4
RATEABLE VALUE OF URBAN DISTRICT:	£12,749.
SUM REPRESENTED BY PENNY RATE:	£50.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

Live Births

Legitimate	Male	10
	Female	<u>8</u>
	Total	<u>18</u>
Illegitimate		Nil

Crude live birth rate per
thousand estimated population 8.6

Standardized live birth rate per
thousand estimated population 10.4

Live birth rate, England and
Wales 15.5

One still-birth was registered in 1953 and the
total birth rate is thus

Crude	9.05
Standardized	10.95

Of the births attributed to Woodhall Spa, 13 were
registered in the Urban District, and are presumed to have
occurred in domiciliary practice. This is 68.5% and
reflects confidence in the maternity service of the
district.

Deaths

Male	12
Female	<u>22</u>
Total	<u>34</u>

Crude death rate per thousand
estimated population 16.2

Standardized death rate per
thousand estimated population 11.7

Death rate, England and Wales
per thousand estimated
population 11.4

Age at Death

Years	Under 1	1/4	5/14	15/24	25/34	35/44	45/54	55/64	65/74	75 and Over
Deaths	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	6	5	20
% of total 1953	2.9	0	2.9	0	0	0	5.8	17.6	14.7	58.8

The death of the child under one year was due to prematurity. The other causes of death at ages under 65 were -

Cardio Vascular disease	5
Cancer of breast	1
Suicide	1
Encephalitis	1

It is worthy of comment that anxiety and emotional stress are regarded as important predisposing causes of cardio vascular disease, whilst their relation to suicide is obvious. Thus 6 out of 9 premature deaths may be regarded as, in some measure, related to the stresses of daily life.

There is, of course, a progressive increase in the deaths in the 75 + age group, mainly due to the degenerations of old age. Even in this age-group, the stress diseases claim a high proportion of victims for, as age advances beyond maturity, abilities fail and the daily round, formerly done without effort, becomes more and more of a strain.

Causes of death as shown in the Registrar General's short list.

Short List No.	Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	0	0	0
2.	Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
3.	Syphilitic disease	0	0	0
4.	Diphtheria	0	0	0
5.	Whooping Cough	0	0	0
6.	Meningococcal infection	0	0	0
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
8.	Measles	0	0	0
9.	Other infective and Parasitic diseases	0	0	0
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	0	0	0
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	0	0	0
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast	0	3	3
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	0	0	0
14.	Other Malignant and lymph- atic Neoplasms	0	1	1
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	0	0
16.	Diabetes	0	0	0
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	3	5
18.	Coronary disease, angina	4	2	6
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	3	1	4
20.	Other Heart Disease	1	6	7
21.	Other Circulatory disease	0	1	1
22.	Influenza	0	1	1
23.	Pneumonia	0	0	0
24.	Bronchitis	0	0	0
25.	Other diseases of Respiratory system	0	0	0
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	0	0
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	0	0
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	0	0	0
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	0	0	0
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
31.	Congenital malformations	0	0	0
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	2	4
33.	Motor Vehicle accidents	0	0	0
34.	All other accidents	0	1	1
35.	Suicide	0	1	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0
TOTALS		12	22	34

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The spring brought with it measles followed by whooping cough and scarlet fever during the summer term.

Actual notifications for these diseases were as follows :-

Whooping Cough	33
Measles	25
Scarlet Fever	11
Pneumonia	7

The cases of scarlet fever occurred from the end of April to the second week in June and affected an infants class. There were 3 additional cases notified from Stixwold, earlier in April. Two of these were in the same class as the subsequent cases in the Urban District; and probably represent the path by which the organism entered the school.

No evidence was found of a chronic streptococcal carrier at the time and no further cases followed.

The outbreaks of measles and whooping cough were also basically school-spread and only 2 cases of measles and 4 of whooping cough were in children under 2 years. This is important, since the effects of these diseases are very much more dangerous in the first two years of life. Because of this, when an older child in any family gets measles, many doctors prefer to postpone or modify the infection in any infants subject to infection by means of an injection of human serum, gamma globulin or mother's blood. This confers only temporary immunity lasting, usually, until the next epidemic two years later. In a healthy infant, by delaying the administration of serum, a mild attack of measles may be allowed and the disease is therefore "over".

In the case of whooping cough, active immunization, giving some degree of lasting protection has been available under the County Council's scheme during 1953. It has not been so widely publicised as diphtheria immunization and no pressure is brought upon parents to have their children immunized. Nevertheless, there is a strong case for immunizing all children between the third and sixth months of life.

The following tables show the vaccination and immunization's carried out under the County Council's Scheme.

Diphtheria Immunization

Aged 0 - 5 years	5 - 14 years	Booster Doses Usually 5 - 14 years
24	0	21

Small Pox Vaccination

	Aged under 1	1 - 4 years	5 - 14 years	15 years +	Total
Primary Vaccinations	20	1	2	3	26
Revaccinations	0	0	0	4	4

Whooping Cough Immunization

This is only recommended at ages under 5 years.

Aged under 1	One+	2+	3+	4+	Total
0	4	0	2	2	8

These figures should be construed in relation to an average number of births per annum of 24.3. It will be seen at once that the response of parents to diphtheria immunization and vaccination is extremely good and that whooping cough immunization has not yet "caught on". This is a pity; whilst deaths from smallpox and diphtheria have been almost abolished, the nation loses a few lives every week from whooping cough, and much preventable ill-health, especially collapse of part of the lung can be attributed to it.

At present, the use of combined vaccine or double dosage for simultaneous diphtheria and whooping cough immunization has not been recommended and it may well be that mothers are unwilling to subject their tiny babies to more "pricks" than they feel to be absolutely necessary.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

General Medical and Nursing Services

Two doctors, a health visitor and a district nurse are based in the Spa and there is every indication that the service is popular and efficient.

As referred to above, the proportion of babies born at home is rather higher than in neighbouring districts. This is not due wholly to the lack of bad homes in Woodhall, for this is balanced by a lamentable habit of wealthier people to have their babies in nursing homes or hospitals, thus converting a physiological experience into something of an "operation" with all the bustle and excitement of "going in", and strange faces and surroundings for what is properly the most homely of all functions.

Health Services of the County Council

No clinic for the Maternity & Child Welfare or School Health services exists in Woodhall Spa and residents of the Spa make use of the clinic at Horncastle which provides services as listed below

Clinic	Day and Time	Attendance
Ante-natal	1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesday 10 a.m.	Casual
Infant Welfare	1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesday 2 p.m.	"
Ophthalmic)	By appointment	
)		
Orthopaedic)		
)		
Dental)		

Appointments for children of school age and under are made either by the Maternity and Child Welfare Officer, the School Medical Officer or the family doctor and in each case, both family doctor and the County Medical Officer's staff receive copies of Specialist's Reports, so that all may work together. It is found, however, that where a child is seen by a Specialist at the request of the family doctor, there are a few lapses when inconvenience is caused by non-receipt of the report by the School Medical Officer.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47

No action was taken under this act during the year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE URBAN DISTRICT

Water Supply

In common with the rest of Eastern England, there was a deficiency of rainfall during the year so that for a considerable period, water could not be fed on to the largest of the sand filters which was built at a high level. This is fed from the dyke which normally supplies all three beds with a surplus of water but which falls in level rapidly when any prolonged drought occurs. Water from the storage ponds can then be allowed to gravitate to the two lower beds only.

During the year connections were fitted to the "Air Ministry" supply plant to allow it to feed into the town supply when required. This plant has its own chlorinating and alkali-dosing equipment and gives a very high quality water.

The main town supply was fitted with the rebuilt Candy chloramine apparatus, rebuilt and set to dose with chlorine and soda-ash. This is proving effective in sterilizing the water and rendering it more inert chemically, so that the rate of corrosion of metals used in the supply system and domestic plumbing will be markedly reduced.

Sewage Disposal

No further work has been done on the sewage works at Green Lane which continue to cause anxiety, for the works cannot run for any length of time on one filter bed, whilst neither the Surveyor nor myself would venture to say how long the old bed, with its walls cracked and bulging, will remain standing.

A scheme is being prepared for the modernization of the Sewerage system and disposal plant, although the estimated cost per head will be enormous. Some 300 yards of new sewer have already been laid.

There remain some 15 properties in the Spa which are not fitted with W.C.'s. Whilst 3 cesspools also remain. One, however, is upon a property which has been closed and awaits demolition.

Public Cleansing and Scavenging

It has not always been possible during this year to maintain as effective a service as the Council would wish. This is largely due to the need for keeping expenses down. Obviously more men and equipment could maintain a more frequent service but the cost would burden the rate payers still more.

There is scope for much more co-operation by householders for large quantities of refuse of a combustible nature is placed in ash bins so that there is insufficient space for ashes, etc. If householders made a rule of burning all combustible refuse, they would provide lighter loads, fewer journeys and consequently better service. The only ways they can obtain improved scavenging are by co-operation or else by paying for more men.

Swimming Pool, Jubilee Park

No difficulties of any great consequence were encountered during the season although in peak periods there was some shortage of cubicle accommodation.

Chlorination to break-point is practical only with the plant running almost continuously for the whole 24 hours. This is the inevitable result of a 19 hour turnover time with the chlorinated water fed back at only one point. The chlorine gradient drops steeply along the length of the path and free chlorine is not infrequently absent from the deep water near the draw-off grille.

The absorption of chlorine in a pool varies with many factors but the number of bathers is the most important variable factor.

The Removal of perspiration, etc. from the skin by the shower before entering the bath should be an invariable rule, whilst an adequacy of W.C.'s is essential if occasional gross pollution is to be avoided.

FOOD

Meat

Under the Ministry of Food arrangements, Woodhall Spa has been supplied from Harncastle abattoir and depot.

It is anticipated that a similar arrangement will obtain when meat control is released in July, 1954.

Ice Cream

The trend in this trade is towards wholesale manufacture and despatch to retailers pre-packed. This is much to be preferred, since by its nature, ice cream is liable to convey various diseases and the responsibility of the small maker is out of proportion to the profit. There are no large scale manufacturers in the area. Sampling shows a very satisfactory state of the ice cream offered for sale.

Meat Products

No manufacturer of meat products takes place in the Spa: such supplies as are required being derived either from the famous firms or from Harncastle. In either case, a satisfactory standard is maintained.

Other Food Premises

It is regrettable but inevitable that with the Sanitary Inspector employed largely upon surveying work, the sanitary inspecting, which rarely shows spectacular results, suffers. No inspection is recorded of food premises other than milk distributors, balchouses and ice cream manufacturers. A small quantity of foodstuffs were inspected and were voluntarily surrendered by their owners.

That the quantity is small is probably due to inspection at the larger centres before reaching the smaller shops in Woodhall.

Housing

A further 17 houses were completed during the year, comprising 12 Council Houses and 5 private ones, compared with 6 and 3 in 1952.

The replacement of unserviceable housing is not a major problem in Woodhall and, whilst it serves partly as a dormitory for Lincoln, there is not a great demand for Council houses.

Caravans

With the increasing availability of houses, the number of caravans on permanent sites has decreased markedly, only 2 remaining.

The Caravan Club has paid two visits to the Spa, in force, and has demonstrated the usefulness of the mobile caravan and that there is an immense difference between the owner-user of a mobile caravan, and the series of holiday tenants of static vans on some holiday sites. The visitors have been most welcome. So far, no approach has been made by the Camping Club for similar facilities but, no doubt, they would be equally welcome.

- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :-
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied Nil
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :-
 - (a) by owners - Nil
 - (b) by Local Authority in default of owners - Nil
- (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made Nil
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil
 - (3) Number of dwelling-houses subject to undertakings Nil
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-
- (1) Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made Nil
 - (2) Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been rendered fit Nil
- (e) Proceedings under Sections 25 & 26
- (1) Number of Clearance Orders made Nil
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance thereof Nil

Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding

- (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 2
- (ii) Number of families dwelling therein 2
- (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 15
- (b) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year Nil
- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases Nil
- (c) Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved Nil

Housing Act, 1949

(a) Number of applications for grants received	Nil
(b) Number of grants made	Nil
(c) Number of applications for grants made by the Local Authority	Nil

Movable Dwellings, Tents, Vans, etc.

Number of site Licences	2
Number of individual Licences	2
Number of Inspections during the year :-	
Sites -	2
Dwellings -	2
Number of contraventions remedied	Nil

FOOD PREMISES

Bakehouses

Number in district	2
Number of Inspections	24
Number of contraventions	Nil
Defects Remedied	Nil

Control of Milk Supplies

Number of distributors on register	3
Number of dairies on register	2
Number of Inspections of dairies	24
Contraventions Remedied	Nil
Number of milk samples taken :-	
Satisfactory -	Nil
Unsatisfactory -	Nil

Ice Cream and Meat Products

Number of Manufacturers: (a) ice cream	2
(b) meat products	Nil
Number of premises registered for the sale of ice cream	7
Number of contraventions found	Nil
Number of contraventions remedied	Nil
Number of samples taken : Grade I	11
Grade II	1
Grade III	Nil
Grade IV	Nil

Slaughter-houses

Number of slaughter-houses on register	Nil
Number of Inspections	Nil
Contraventions of byelaws	Nil
Contraventions remedied	Nil

Other Food Premises

Number of Inspections	Nil
Number of contraventions found	Nil
Number of contraventions remedied	Nil

Foods Condemned

1 - 22 pound tin Frozen Egg

30 - 7 ounce tins Luncheon Meat

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Closets

Number of houses with privy vaults in the district	4
Number of houses with pail closets in the district	11
Number of pail closets repaired	Nil
Number of water closets substituted for dry receptacles	Nil
Number of houses with water closets in the district	594
Number of water closets repaired	4

Sewers

New lengths of sewer laid	300 yards
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Tanks, Filter Beds, etc.

Alterations to sewage disposal works	Nil
Any inadequacy of sewage disposal works or complaints as to smells	Insufficient filter area.

Cesspools

Cesspools emptied, cleansed, etc.,	3
Cesspools abolished	Nil

Drains

Drains examined, tested, exposed, etc.	12
Drains stopped, repaired, etc.	3
Existing soil pipes, etc. renewed or repaired	1

GENERAL

Knackers Yards

Number Licenced	Nil
Number of Inspections	Nil
Defects remedied	Nil

Shops Act, 1950

Number of shops inspected	40
Contraventions remedied	Nil

Water Supply

Wells: New Sunk	Nil
Closed as polluted	Nil
Public Supply:	100%
Percentage of houses - internal supply	98.1%
Communal Supply	.8%
Number of samples obtained for analysis:	
- (a) from wells	Nil
- (b) from public supply	24
Any insufficiency and where	No

Disinfection etc.

Rooms disinfected: (a) ordinary infectious diseases	Nil
(b) tuberculosis	Nil
(c) rooms stripped and cleansed	Nil
(d) number of premises	
disinfected	1

House Refuse

Number of houses using dustbins	570
Is refuse removed by house-holder or by public scavenger?	public
How frequently is refuse removed from each house?	7 days
Number of complaints of non-removal	8
Method of final disposal	Controlled
Are existing arrangements for removal satisfactory	Yes



Nuisances

Total Number of nuisances during the year :-

- (1) Abated as result of Informal action by
Sanitary Inspector 15
(2) Reported to Council - Statutory Notice issued Nil
- Statutory Notice not issued Nil

Details of nuisances abated

	<u>After Informal Intimation</u>	<u>After Statutory Notice</u>
Smoke	Nil	Nil
Accumulation of Refuse	Nil	Nil
Foul ditches, ponds and stagnant water	Nil	Nil
Cows, Pigs and other Animals	Nil	Nil
Drainage	1	Nil
Yards repaved or repaired	Nil	Nil
Other nuisances	14	Nil

Rats and Mice Destruction

Number of rodent operatives employed 1 part-time
Number of premises treated:-
(a) dwelling houses 12
(b) other premises 3
Are there any serious reservoirs of rats in the
district? No

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises (1)	No. on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	1	4	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	25	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enfor- ced by the Local Authority	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	10	29	Nil	Nil

Cases in which defects were found -

Premises	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences:					
a.insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
b.unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
c.not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offenses etc.	1	1	-	1	-
TOTAL	1	1	-	1	-

